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INTERIM REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON (SALOP) FOR THE
YEAR 1939.

1939 was a transitional period in the life of the Council and of its Staff due to the change made in the Clerkship to the Council and an additional change, of a temporary nature, involving the transference of office accommodation to housing of a makeshift character, to span the period necessary to building and equipping the future home of administration.

With this second removal in contemplation and with the profound changes in national life reflecting on local conditions, and adding burdens and responsibilities thereto, the year was unsettled. For the Staff and Executive the re-adjustment to new conditions required time for settlement and, with the Council carrying forward a programme of expansion, of housing and main services, the chief difficulty was to keep abreast of work which was continually on the increase and making insistent demands for immediate attention.

At the end of the year some vision was obtained of what would be the results of the works in progress, but the year 1940 gives no promise of lessened activity.

With emergency requirements adding new duties and retarding normal progress, there will still be the strain of keeping pace with the essentials and an inevitable time lag in some instances. Nevertheless, there is no doubt but that, with the final settlement in the new offices and the Staff given time to operate their services to satisfaction, there will be a great advancement in the economics of the District and progress in hygiene.

POPULATION Recent statistics are not available to give guidance to changes in population in the area and such as are in being cannot be consulted with reliability owing to the constant change and movement of persons, but there is no doubt but that the trend is upwards, to a considerable degree. Apart from permanent residents this can be accounted for by the influx of building operatives to meet the demands of several large contracts started in the latter part of the year. This floating population has in no instance given rise to any difficulty in the adequate maintenance of the essential public health services in the particular parishes affected. Housing accommodation has been taxed to meet the requirements of this importation and the effects have been felt by the urban areas surrounding the district.

In September, the Authority was asked to receive, in addition, a proportion of the evacuees taken by Shropshire. Fortunately, the numbers were small and were able to be accommodated without any great inconvenience. The children from Smothwick were of the elementary class, were well behaved and gave rise to no complaints. The foster-parents made every effort to make the newcomers feel thoroughly at home in their new surroundings. In the neighbourhood of Newport the rural parishes took the overflow of evacuees from the Urban area. The foregoing changes in residents have been borne mainly by the eastern department of the District and the resultant is that in this area, principally, little reliance can now be placed on the statistics obtained from the survey of housing of inhabitants made at the end of 1936.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. No calls have been made on the Emergency Health Laboratory - recently established in Wellington.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The augmented services operating in Wellington and Newport will benefit the area in the parishes adjacent to these towns.

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1. *Phragmites* (Common Reed)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \\
 & \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

PUBLIC BATHS The lack of public cleansing facilities in the more densely populated parts of the Rural area has necessitated the use of the Public Baths at Wollington for that purpose.

CARAVAN DWELLERS Complaints of these came chiefly from the Kotley district and action had to be taken by the Sanitary Inspectors. By keeping this class on the move their numbers were gradually lessened and conditions were improved materially.

WATER SUPPLIES The supply serving the Lilloshall, Donnington and Edmond area will not be sufficient to meet the increased consumption and an increase is to be provided by new borings. Plans for this measure have been approved and the site of the new works will be adjacent to the present water supply situated near to the Humbers. No steps have been taken to increase the storage capacity available to the above district. The supply to the Lawley and Kotley areas, which, under average conditions, gives a fairly adequate flow, has given rise to shortage when extreme weather conditions have been experienced. This shortage on such occasions has been out of all proportion to that which might reasonably be expected, and attention will require to be given to maintain a more even flow to consumers.

Wollington Urban supply has been satisfactory. Private supplies have been examined and tested from time to time; no serious defects have been discovered and in many cases cleaning out and provision of protection from entry of surface pollution has been all that has been found necessary to regain a pure flow.

SEWAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

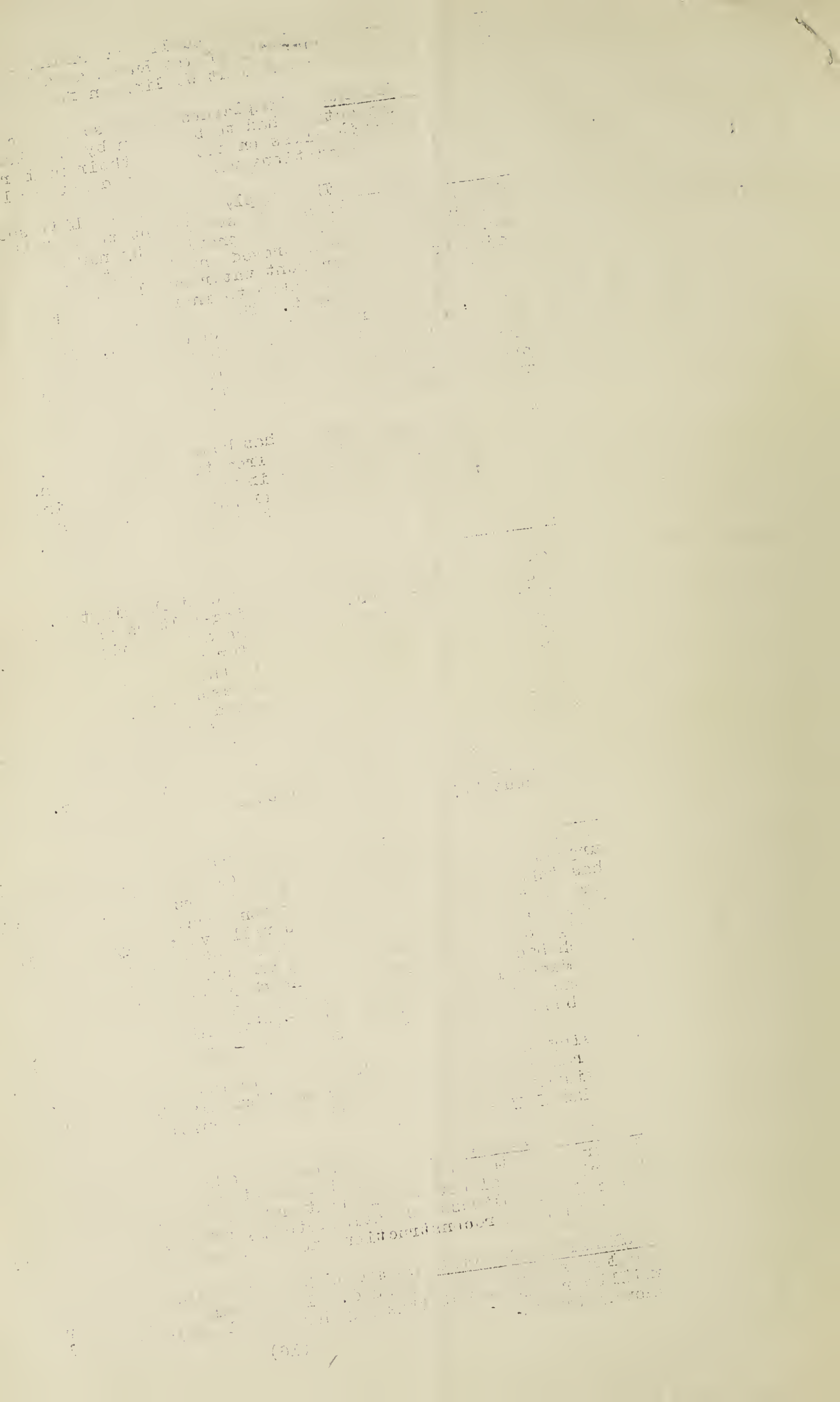
Modern works have been completed at Donnington. These consist of sedimentation-tanks, percolating-filters and humus-tanks, the effluent from which is discharged to nearby streams. The scheme has been designed to provide for a considerable area in the neighbourhood, but contours in the Lilloshall Village district make the use of pumping plant essential to bring it within the scheme. While it is intended that Lilloshall should benefit, the facilities for pumping have still to be constructed. In the Donnington Wood Ward, sewers have been laid to meet an increase of 50% of the present population. Steady progress is being maintained in connecting properties to the newly laid sewer. The Kotley and Lawley Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily and many household connections have been made to this system.

HOUSING While hostilities have retarded the normal planning to meet the requirements of overcrowding and slum dwellings, more urgent schemes have continued uninterruptedly. The principal expansion has taken place in the Donnington area, where certain factories and up to one thousand houses will eventually be built. These houses are additional to and will not replace the original scheme designed to meet overcrowding and slum clearance in that area and which had to be postponed. Another scheme postponed was that of the Mannerley Lane site which was designed to meet the requirements of the Kotley and Lawley districts. Ministry of Health enquiries had been held in each of the above-mentioned postponed schemes.

Housing expansion had also been considered for the Edmond and Ellordine parishes and advantage has also been taken of the provision for reconstruction and modernising properties under the Rural Workers Act.

MILK AND DAIRIES About 25% of farms have been given accredited licenses by the County Health Department and the Sanitary Inspector reports that almost double that number approximate to the requirements. General cleanliness is satisfactory, but attention is still required to dairies in reconstruction and separation from living quarters.

PREPARATION OF FOODS Premises have been inspected but, as yet, no licenses have been issued. In certain cases some reconstruction will be required but this may have to be delayed until a return to normal times.



MEAT INSPECTION Owing to the scattered nature of the area and the somewhat irregular times of slaughtering, regular control is difficult. Generally the work is well conducted and no action has needed to be taken during the year. With the inauguration of centralised killing and examination (as a War measure) much greater supervision will be able to be exercised, and the only control in the rural districts will be that of preventing illicit killing and disposal.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE This year has been marked by the continued rise in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified. These cases have been generally of a mild type and the presence of small epidemics in the Edmond and Woodcote Parishes accounted for the higher numbers; in the latter parish, which is sparsely populated, the source of infection seemed to be located around the school. Diphtheria was practically absent during the whole of the year and it appears that the benefit of the intensive campaign for the protection of children is now bearing fruit. From the returns for 1939 it is shown that the number of children applying for immunisation is declining and although this is to a certain degree to be expected, careful watch must be maintained to ensure that a high average of protection prevails.

Attention should be directed to school entrants and those below that age. From now onwards the returns should average evenly with no marked fluctuations. By close supervision and encouragement to the parents to have their children safe-guarded, the full benefit of the concerted efforts of 1937/38 will be felt and have a lasting value. In the latter part of the year Measles and Whooping Cough were made compulsorily notifiable, and in the last month there were considerable numbers of cases of Measles being brought to notice; no cases of Whooping Cough occurred.

W. A. M. STEWART,

Medical Officer of Health.

22/8/40.

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